

1 I Claim:

2 1. A method for creating a secondary market for private equity, comprising:

3 registering accredited investors with a system operator;

4 registering securities based on private equity with said system operator, said securities

5 being qualified by said system operator; and

6 said system operator auctioning said securities to said accredited investors over an

7 electronic network.

8 2. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 1, wherein said
9 auctioning is conducted over the Internet.

10 3. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, wherein said
11 private equity is selected from the group consisting of limited partnership interests and private
12 equity in individual companies.

13 4. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 3, further
14 comprising:

15 creating and storing audio-visual information and a business plan for said private equity;

16 and

17 allowing accredited investors access, over the Internet, to said audio-visual information
18 and business plan for said private equity upon which said auctioned securities are based.

19 5. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, wherein said
20 auctioning is initiated by a seller offering said securities for sale.

21 6. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, wherein said
22 auctioning is initiated by said accredited investor putting out a bid to purchase said security.

1 7. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 6, wherein said
2 bid is for a private asset of a type that matches said security.

3 8. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, further
4 comprising charging said seller a transaction fee.

5 9. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, further
6 comprising charging said accredited investor a transaction fee.

7 10. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, further
8 comprising creating puts and calls based on said securities.

9 11. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 5, further
10 comprising notifying accredited investors by e-mail of a seller offering said securities for sale.

11 12. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 7, further
12 comprising notifying sellers by e-mail of an accredited investors bid for a private asset of a type
13 that matches said security.

14 13. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 1, wherein said
15 securities that are qualified by said system operator are venture-backed securities.

16 14. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, further
17 comprising:

18 collecting securities preferences from said accredited investors; and
19 notifying said accredited investors when securities matching the preferences are being
20 auctioned.

21 15. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 2, further
22 comprising:

23 registering sellers of securities with said system operator;

1 collecting securities-related information from said sellers; and
2 notifying said sellers when bids from accredited investors are received to purchase
3 securities matching sellers' type of securities.

4 16. A system for creating a secondary market for private equity, comprising:
5 a system operator server facility connected to an electronic network, said server facility
6 comprising:

7 database storage means;
8 instructions for registering accredited investors with a system operator;
9 instructions for registering securities based on private equity with said system
10 operator, said securities being qualified by said system operator;
11 hardware and instructions for receiving communications from accredited investors
12 and sellers; and
13 instructions for auctioning said securities to said accredited investors over said
14 electronic network based on said communications.

15 17. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 16, wherein said
16 electronic network is the Internet.

17 18. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 17, wherein said
18 private equity is selected from the group consisting of limited partnership interests and private
19 equity in individual companies.

20 19. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 18, further
21 comprising:

22 means for storing audio-visual information and a business plan for said private
23 equity; and

means for allowing accredited investors access, over the Internet, to said audio-visual information and business plan for said private equity upon which said auctioned securities are based.

20. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 17, further comprising instructions for allowing said seller to initiate an auction and instructions for allowing said accredited investor to initiate an auction.

21. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 20, further comprising means associated with said server facility for notifying accredited investors by e-mail of a seller offering said securities for sale.

22. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 20, further comprising means associated with said server facility for notifying sellers by e-mail of an accredited investors bid for a private asset of a type that matches said security.

23. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 1, wherein said securities that are qualified by said system operator are venture-backed securities.

24. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 17, further comprising:

means for collecting securities preferences from said accredited investors; and

means for notifying said accredited investors when securities matching the preferences are being auctioned.

25. The system for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 17, further comprising:

means for registering sellers of securities with said system operator;

means for collecting securities-related information from said sellers; and

means for notifying said sellers when bids from accredited investors are received to purchase securities matching sellers' securities.

26. A method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities, comprising:
registering accredited investors with a system operator;
registering restricted public securities of a company with said system operator, said securities being qualified by said system operator; and
said system operator auctioning said securities to said accredited investors over the Internet.

27. The method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities of claim 26, further comprising:
creating and storing audio-visual information and a business plan for said company; and
allowing accredited investors access, over the Internet, said audio-visual information and business plan for said company upon which said auctioned securities are based.

28. The method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities of claim 26, further comprising charging a transaction fee to at least one of said company and said accredited investor.

29. The method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities of claim 26, further comprising creating puts and calls based on said securities.

30. The method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities of claim 26, further comprising:

collecting securities preferences from said accredited investors; and
notifying said accredited investors when securities matching the preferences are being auctioned.

1 31. The method for creating a secondary market for restricted public securities of claim 26,
2 further comprising:
3 providing an inventory of said securities by having the system operator take a position in
4 certain restricted public securities.

5 32. The method for creating a secondary market for private equity of claim 1, further
6 comprising:
7 providing an inventory of said securities by having the system operator take a position in
8 private equities.

9